

Winter 1999



Green Gram



King County Solid Waste Division

Happy New Year, Green Teams!

With all the talk about the Y2K (the year 2000) fast approaching, it is easy to forget about simple things we can do to help save natural resources and make a difference. Here at Green Team Headquarters, we hope you reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible in 1999!

1999!

Great Green Teams in Action

Several Green Teams have some big goals to achieve before the year 2000 and they have some great project ideas to share.



Mitchell Greene's Green Team at Hazel Valley Elementary is

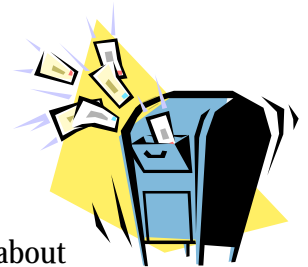
finding out information about recycled products. Fifth grade students in Mr. Greene's class are using the world wide web and the library as avenues to research how plastic, aluminum, paper, and glass are recycled and what recycled products they become. To improve their speaking and presenting skills, each group will then present what they learn to other classes in the school.

Carol Novotney's second grade Green Team at Mirror Lake Elementary is studying geometry. How does this cut down on waste you ask? Well, each student is creating a geometric structure of solid shapes using recycled materials. Students are also creating a display collage of materials they pick up from the school grounds to educate fellow classmates about litter. **Go Green Team!**



Helen Kraft and Brad Coulter's second, third, and fourth graders at **Margaret Mead Elementary** are sending a lot more than just messages! Students are mailing styrofoam packing materials back to companies who send them. Students have researched the effects of styrofoam on the environment.

Information on recyclable packing alternatives is being collected for their web page about styrofoam. They also send letters with the returned packages showing the research they did and asking the companies to respond to why they use styrofoam.



King County Recycling, Is It Up or Down? Recently the Department of Ecology released the results of the 1997 recycling survey. The survey showed a *decrease* in recycling statewide. However, King County's residential recycling rate during the same time period has *increased* by 2% from 46% to 48%! Why the difference statewide? Education in recycling programs has remained stable in King County while funding for state recycling education and promotion programs has declined significantly over the last three years. Keep up the good work, King County residents!

Free Green Team Workshops!

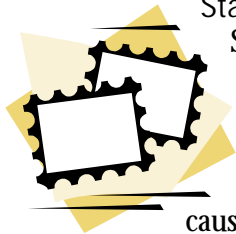
If your Green Team would like to schedule a free workshop on a variety of topics from starting and maintaining a worm bin or choosing recycled products to identifying less packaging waste or organizing Green Team activities, please call René at 206-583-0655 or email at ralexander@triangleassociates.com.

Green Team Prizes!

Green Teams that complete two activities that help their school cut down on garbage are eligible to receive prizes such as pencils made from recycled cardboard and water bottles or lunch bags made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic! The lunch bag has the new program logo with the phrase "I Put the 'R' in Earth" on it. If you need information on receiving prizes, check your Green Team welcome packet for the "rewards" section or call René at 206-583-0655 for more information!



Reuse Idea of the Winter! Design a Postage Stamp for Black History Month



Some folks buy special postage stamps called commemorative stamps, because they honor people, places or events. Many commemorative stamps support causes represented in the stamps.

Since February is Black History Month, this is a great educational activity that also is a fun way to reuse.

How to:

Select a theme on an event, such as civil rights, science, medicine, sports, art, and music. Or you can select an individual like Harriet Tubman, abolitionist; Billie Holiday, jazz singer; Jackie Robinson, baseball player; and Ralph Bunche, statesman and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Once you select a person, event, or theme you're ready to design the stamp. You can help save natural resources, landfill space, and energy by thoughtfully choosing art materials.

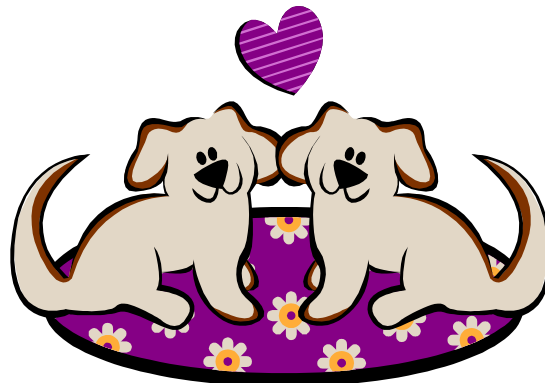
Suggested materials:

- Scraps of construction paper
- The back of a reused piece of paper
- Markers or colored pencils
- Scraps of magazine paper
- Watercolor paints

Draw your design on a reused full sheet of paper (it doesn't have to be actual 'stamp size') with colored pencils, pen and ink, or markers, or paint the picture with watercolors. Outline the image with a black marker to make it more distinct. Use scraps to create a collage piece or a decorative border. Remember to put USA, 33 cents, the name of the person, place or event, and the image. In addition to Black History Month, you can do this research, design and reuse project can be done on any person or subject area.

Tips:

Visit the *Stamp on Black History* website at <http://library.advanced.org/10320/> for information on commemorative stamps for Black Americans and events. Another informative and kid-friendly webpage is *Black History: Exploring African-American Issues* at www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/AfroAm.html. You can also check out the *US Postal Service* website at <http://www.usps.gov> with lots of information about stamps.



Happy Valentines Day!

Valentine's Day Reuse Fun!

Students can create great Valentine's cards from reused materials. For the directions on how to make a pop-up card and envelope out of reused materials, just call René at 206-583-0655. Students can also hand create their Valentine mailbox by reusing a shoe box or tissue box. Have fun!



Printed on recycled paper